

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of treating a mammal infected with hepatitis C virus, comprising administering to said mammal an anti-hepatitis C viral effective amount of at least one  $\alpha$ -interferon, concurrently or sequentially with administering a thymosin- $\alpha$  or fragment of thymosin- $\alpha$  fragment.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said  $\alpha$ -interferon is interferon  $\alpha$ -2b.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of administering said interferon comprises administering interferon produced by recombinant DNA technology.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human, said interferon is an  $\alpha$ -interferon, and the amount of said interferon administered ranges between about one million and about three million units of said interferon per administration.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said mammal is human, said thymosin is thymosin  $\alpha$ -1, and said dose is about 1500 to about 1700  $\mu$ g of said thymosin  $\alpha$ -1.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A composition comprising a pharmaceutical dosage unit of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier containing an immune system-potentiating amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of thymosin- $\alpha$  and/or fragments of thymosin- $\alpha$  and immune system-potentiating fragments of thymosin in combination with an anti-hepatitis C viral effective amount of at least one  $\alpha$ -interferon,

said pharmaceutical dosage unit being capable of promoting *in vivo* inactivation of hepatitis C virus when administered to mammals infected with said virus.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 7, wherein said thymosin is selected from the group consisting of Thymosin Fraction five and Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1.

Claim 9. (Canceled).

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 7, wherein said  $\alpha$ -interferon is interferon  $\alpha$ -2b.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein said interferon is recombinant interferon.

Claim 12. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin Fraction Five, the immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system-potentiating amount, and said pharmaceutical dosage unit is from about 900 to about 1200  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$  body surface area of said human.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 7, wherein said interferon is an  $\alpha$ -interferon and said amount is between about 1 million and about 3 million units of said interferon.

Claim 14. (Original) The composition of Claim 7, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1, said immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system potentiating amount, and said pharmaceutical dosage unit is from about 900 to about 1200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  body surface area of said human.

Claim 15. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1, and said pharmaceutical dosage unit contains about 1500 to about 1700  $\mu\text{g}$  of Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1.

Claim 16. (currently amended) An anti-hepatitis C formulation comprising an immune system-potentiating amount of at least one thymosin- $\alpha$  or ~~an immune system-potentiating fragment of thymosin- $\alpha$  fragment, said thymosin fragment selected from the group consisting of C-terminal 4-28, C-terminal 15-28, N-terminal 1-8, N-terminal 1-14 and N-terminal 1-20,~~ in combination with an anti-hepatitis C viral effective amount of at least one  $\Delta$ -interferon  $\alpha$ -interferon in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for use in the treatment of a mammal infected with hepatitis C virus.

Claim 17. (Original) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is selected from the group consisting of Thymosin Fraction Five and Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1.

Claim 18. (Cancelled).

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said  $\alpha$ -interferon is interferon  $\alpha$ -2b.

Claim 20. (Original) The formulation of Claim 19, wherein said interferon is recombinant interferon.

21. (Previously presented) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin Fraction Five, said immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system-potentiating amount, and said amount is from about 900 to about 1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> body surface area of said human.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said anti-hepatitis C viral effective amount of said  $\alpha$ -interferon is from about 1 million to about 3 million units of said  $\alpha$ -interferon.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1, said immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune

system-potentiating amount, and said amount is from 900 to about 1200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  body surface area of said human.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1 and wherein said amount is about 1500 to about 1700  $\mu\text{g}$  of Thymosin  $\alpha$ -1.

Claim 25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said fragment of thymosin- $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of C-terminal 4-28, C-terminal 15-28, N-terminal 1-8, N-terminal 1-14 and N-terminal 1-20.

Claim 26. (New) The composition of claim 7, wherein said fragment of thymosin- $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of C-terminal 4-28 fragment, C-terminal 15-28 fragment, N-terminal 1-8 fragment, N-terminal 1-14 fragment and N-terminal 1-12 fragments.